

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force
Cumulative Effects Work Group Meeting
November 8, 2006

Participants: Kevin Golden, EPA; Kevin Briggs, CO APCD; Mary Uhl, NMED; Doug Blewitt, BP; Till Stoeckenius, Environ; Jeff Sorkin, USFS; Mike George, NPS

The Cumulative Effects (CE) work group met on November 8, 2006 in Farmington, NM as a part of the quarterly task force meeting.

First, the group briefly discussed any preferences for meeting times. This meeting was a bit different from previous ones. There were no preferences.

Next, a brief overview of a meeting with an emission inventory contractor was provided by Kevin Golden, the coordinator of a newly formed committee of the Policy Oversight Group to oversee modeling and emission inventory work that will help provide further insights into the overall suite of mitigation options being developed by the task force.

The CE group then turned to discussion of how to get the information being requested by the various work groups for inclusion in the discussion of mitigation options. Relative to several of the options from the Oil and Gas work group, the Cumulative Effects group recommends that an upcoming revision of the oil and gas emission inventory from the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) be the basis for assessment of options related to mitigation of engine emissions. This update will include a good bit of more recent information including, a very recent NMED inventory for Rio Arriba and San Juan counties.

The group then turned to discussion of technical work for individual mitigation options:

The O&G work group wants NO_x emissions information from rig engines to assess the effectiveness of Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR). While waiting for the improved WRAP information, Doug Blewitt will be attempting to get a count of clean vs. not-so-clean rig engines in the Four Corners region, as well as doing bit of research of control efficiencies for SCR.

The O&G work group wants information on the benefit of accelerated Tier 2 to Tier 4 rig engines. The same information Doug Blewitt is to collect that is described above will be useful here. Mike George will research EPA materials for limits and schedules under Tier 2/3/4.

The O&G work group wants information on the benefit of replacing reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE) for compression with electric compressors. As with the previous options the WRAP inventory is needed. Doug Blewitt will acquire horsepower information for estimation of wattage used in the mean time.

The O&G work group wants information on the benefit of New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). The improved WRAP future year emissions estimates will assist with this task.

Doug Blewitt suggested inclusion of a placeholder for assessment of an intermediate scenario between status quo and full replacement through electrification.

The O&G work group wants to assess the reduction in emissions associated with lessening truck traffic through automation of wells. Mike George will acquire vehicle miles traveled (VMT) data from the WRAP road dust inventory, while Doug Blewitt will try to estimate oil and gas specific VMT for the Four Corners area. Mr. Blewitt is to try to differentiate between heavy duty and light duty vehicles.

The O&G work group wants to assess benefit of slowing vehicles down through enforcement. Mike George will assess a 20 mph reduction through using EPA's emission factor information. It was suggested that there be some discussion of enforcement in the write-up, as well.

The O&G work group wants to evaluate reducing truck traffic through centralization of produced water facilities. Doug Blewitt is acquiring VMT for trucks that will be useful in this work.

The O&G work group wants to assess the benefit of covering dirt roads with rock or gravel. Mike George will use EPA's emission factor information to perform this work.

The O&G work group wants to assess the effect of reducing truck traffic through efficient routing of water disposal trucks. Again, the information Doug Blewitt is getting will be needed for this task.

The O&G work group wants to look at emissions benefit from optimizing engine sizes for stationary RICE. NMED will determine a utilization estimate based on permits.

The O&G work group has another question about reducing truck traffic. Mike George will work on this one using VMT information obtained by Doug Blewitt.

The O&G work group has suggested a study on various control technologies for RICE. The CE work group will track the ongoing Kansas State work, and provide updates to O&G as available.

The O&G work group has suggested ways to improve how emissions info is presented. The updated WRAP emission inventory will help some, and the CE work group will work on the rest.

The Power Plant work group wants to assess the benefit to visibility and ozone from reducing NO_x through installation of SCR. The CE work group is not performing modeling for individual mitigation options. The comprehensive modeling being performed for the regulatory agencies who might implement such measures would provide insights on this question.

The Power Plant Work Group asked for an opinion on enhanced monitoring. The CE work group needs clarification as to whether it is stack emissions monitoring or ambient monitoring.

As with the first Power Plant work group item, it will not be possible for the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force to model individual options. Comprehensive modeling being undertaken by

the oversight group for the task force will assist those agencies with understanding the benefit of options like this one.

The Power Plant work group wants a summary of ozone concentrations in the region. NMED is pulling this together from its Early Action Compact work.

In wrapping up the CE work group meeting, the group reviewed the various action items identified above, then agreed to stay with the current conference call schedule for the foreseeable future.

The meeting was adjourned to return to the plenary session.